WHAT IS THIS HEAVY SENSATION PRESSING DOWN ON MY BODY?

DOOOOM

BOOOM

IS THIS MONSTER THE PERSONIFICATION OF MY WORRIES?

MY BURDENS?

THE EXPECTATIONS PLACED ON ME, HAUNTING ME EVEN IN MY SLEEP?

G'MORNING, ART!

WAKEY WAKEY!

THUDD

H--WHA--

NOT NOW, SHADOW MONSTER. FIVE MORE MINUTES.

WHO ARE YOU CALLING A MONSTER?!

YOUR
HAIR LOOKS
FUNNY.

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, MINI-MEDUSA.

HEY, HEY, IS IT TRUE YOU'RE GOING TO STAY HERE?

GRANDPA TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT YOU ARE

YOU ARE.

MAYBE.
WE'LL KNOW
FOR SURE AFTER
THE TRIP WITH
ELDER VIRION,
PRINCESS.

PINCH

OUCH!

NOT
PRINCESS...
TESS! T-E-S-S.
I'M GOING TO GET
ANGRY IF YOU

KEEP DOING THAT!

OKAY, OKAY!
NOW, LET ME SHOWER AND GET READY. UNLESS YOU WANT TO WATCH, I SUGGEST YOU LEAVE THE ROOM, TESS.

EW...

HOW PERVERTED!

GRANDPA WAS RIGHT!

STOP USING WORDS YOU BARELY KNOW!

THE BEGINNING AFTER THE END

STORY BY
TURTLEME

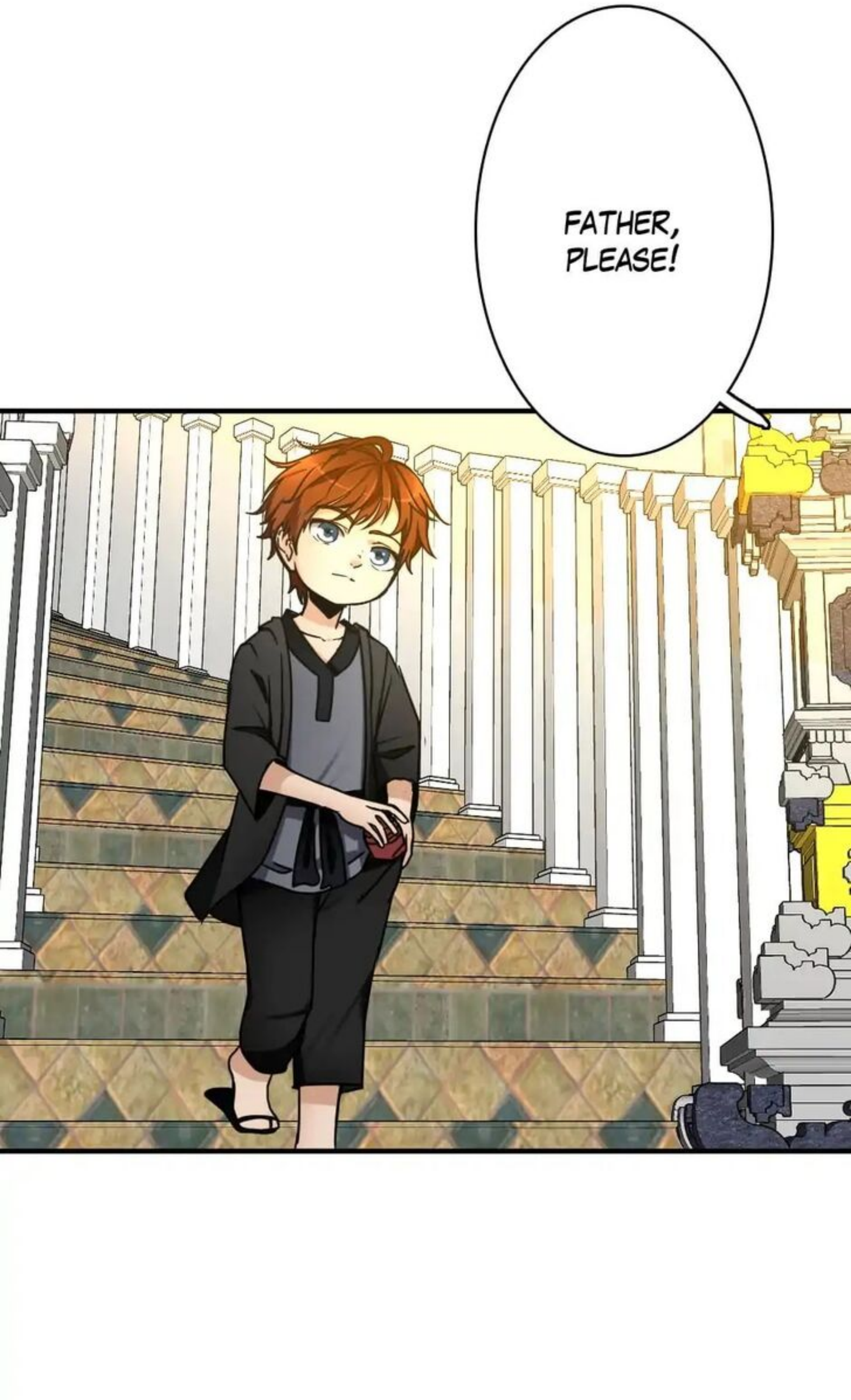
ART BY
FUYUKI23

PRESENTED BY
TAPAS MEDIA

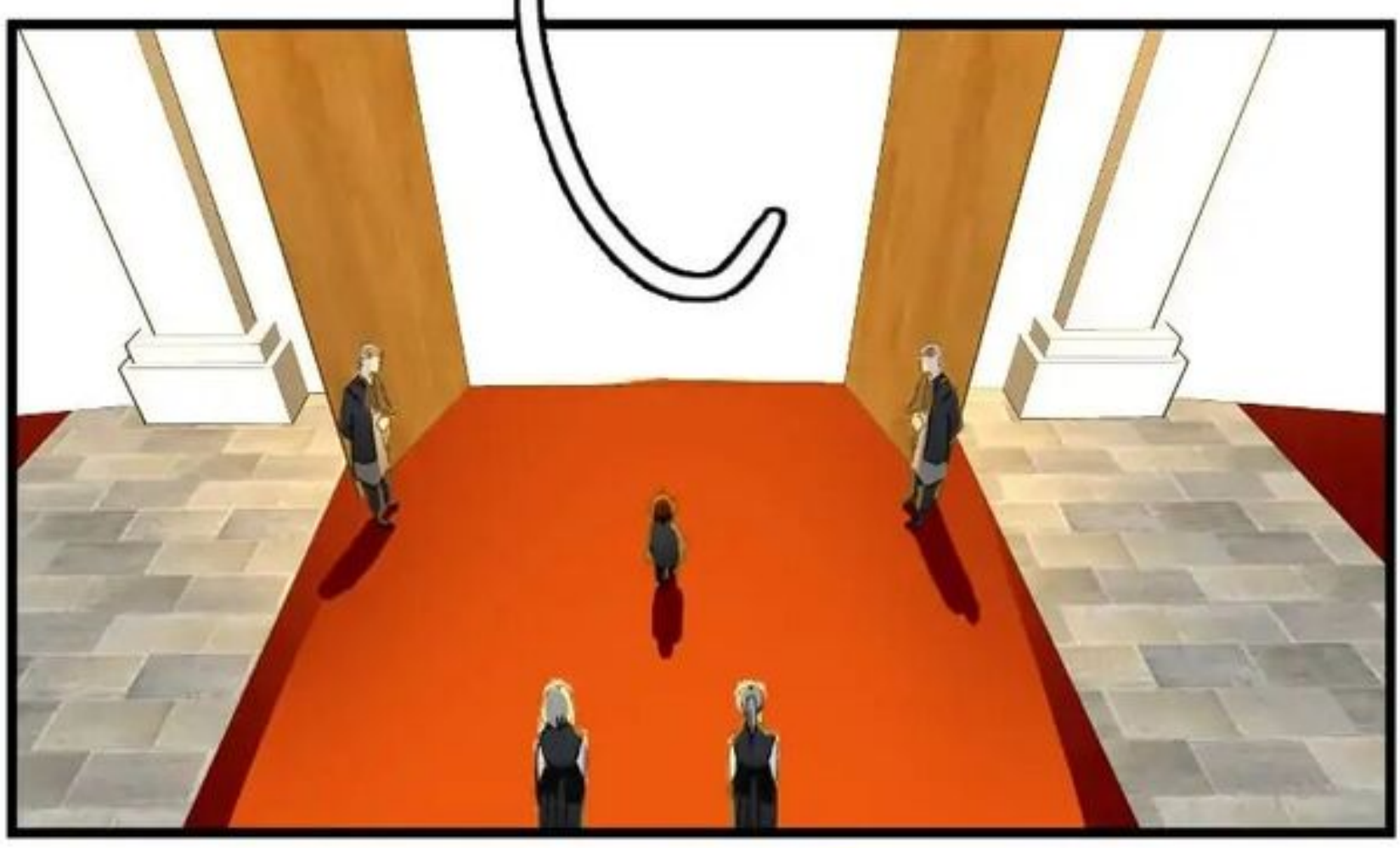
QUALITY CONTROL BY

QUALITY CONTROL BY
KISAI ENTERTAINMENT

COLOR ASSISTANT
PLOWPLO



YOU KNOW IT'S NOT APPROPRIATE FOR A HUMAN TO BE RESIDING WITHIN THIS KINGDOM!



ALDUIN IS RIGHT, ELDER VIRION.

I'LL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL TO THE BOY FOR SAVING TESSIA,

BUT ALLOWING A HUMAN TO STAY HERE GOES AGAINST ALL TRADITIONS.

I'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO THE BRAT. THERE'S NO NEED TO SAY MORE.

BESIDES,

YOUR DAUGHTER SEEMS TO APPROVE OF MY DECISION AS WELL.

NOD!

NOD!

F-FATHER,

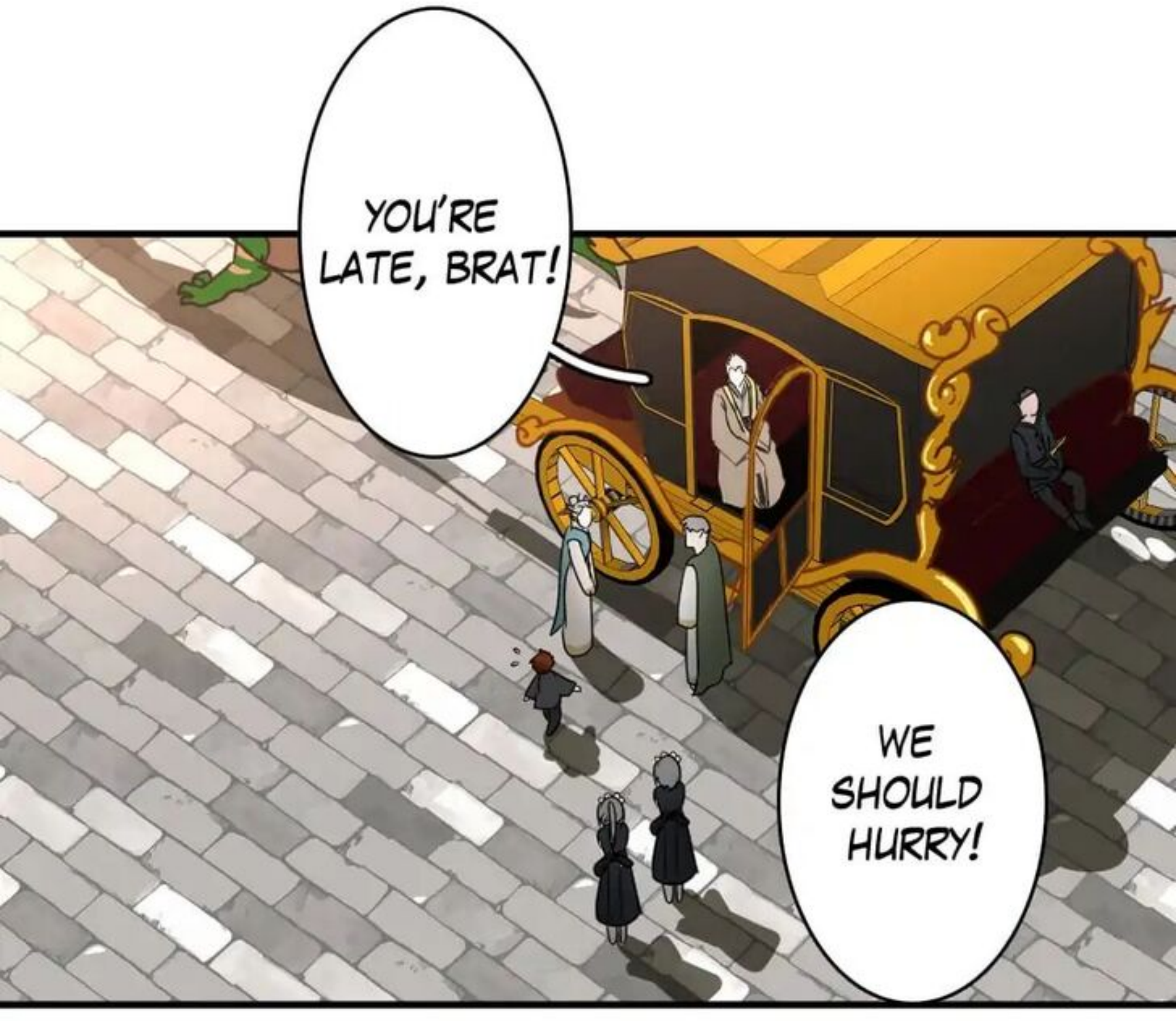
I ASK THAT YOU RECONSIDER--

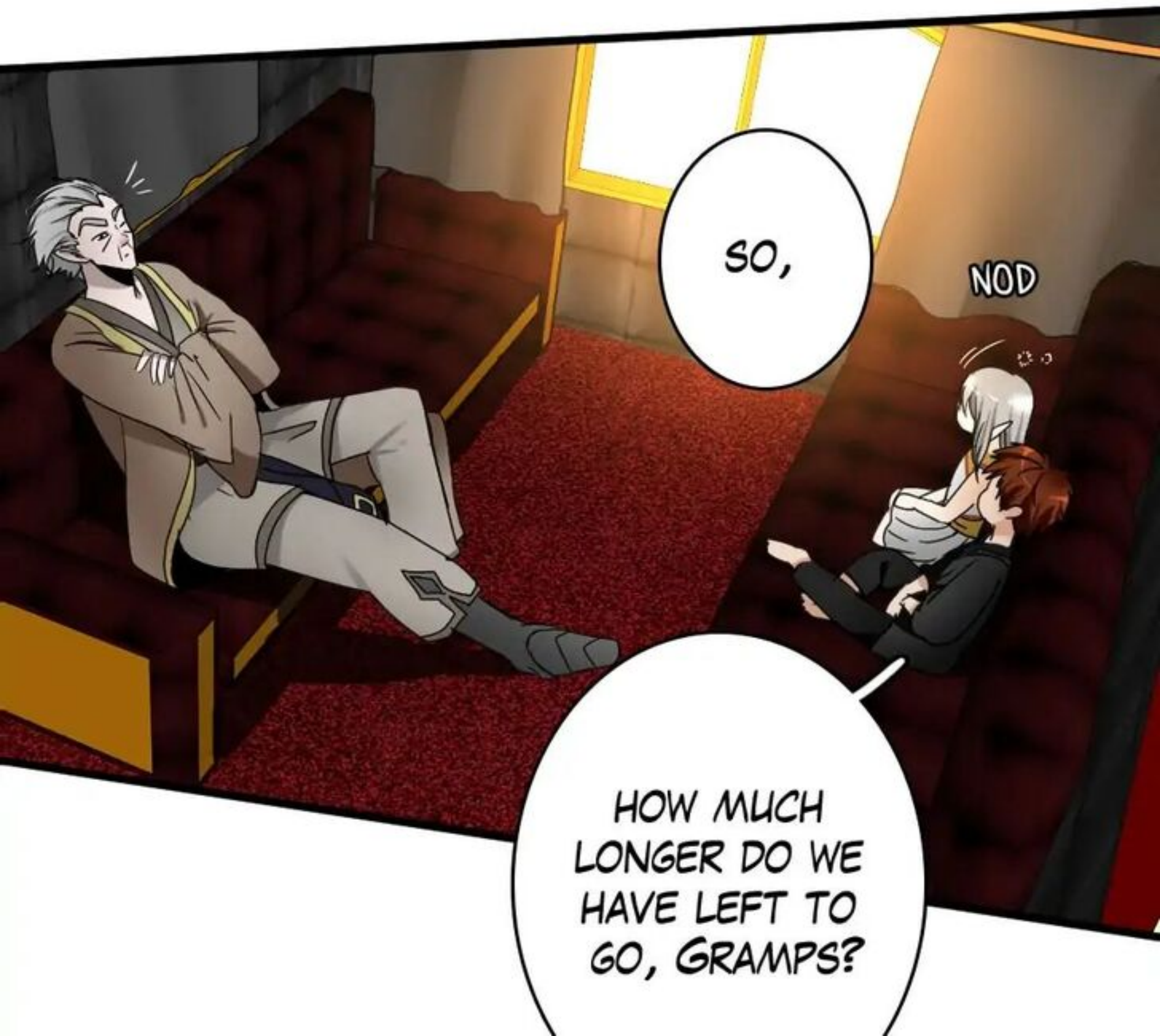
ENOUGH.

HE WILL BE UNDER MY DIRECT GUIDANCE.

MAKE SURE EVERYONE IN THE KINGDOM KNOWS THAT.

LOOKS LIKE THE ELDER REALLY CAN BE TRUSTED.


YOU'RE LATE, BRAT!
WE SHOULD HURRY!


SO,
NOD
HOW MUCH LONGER DO WE HAVE LEFT TO GO, GRAMPS?

GRAMPS, EH?

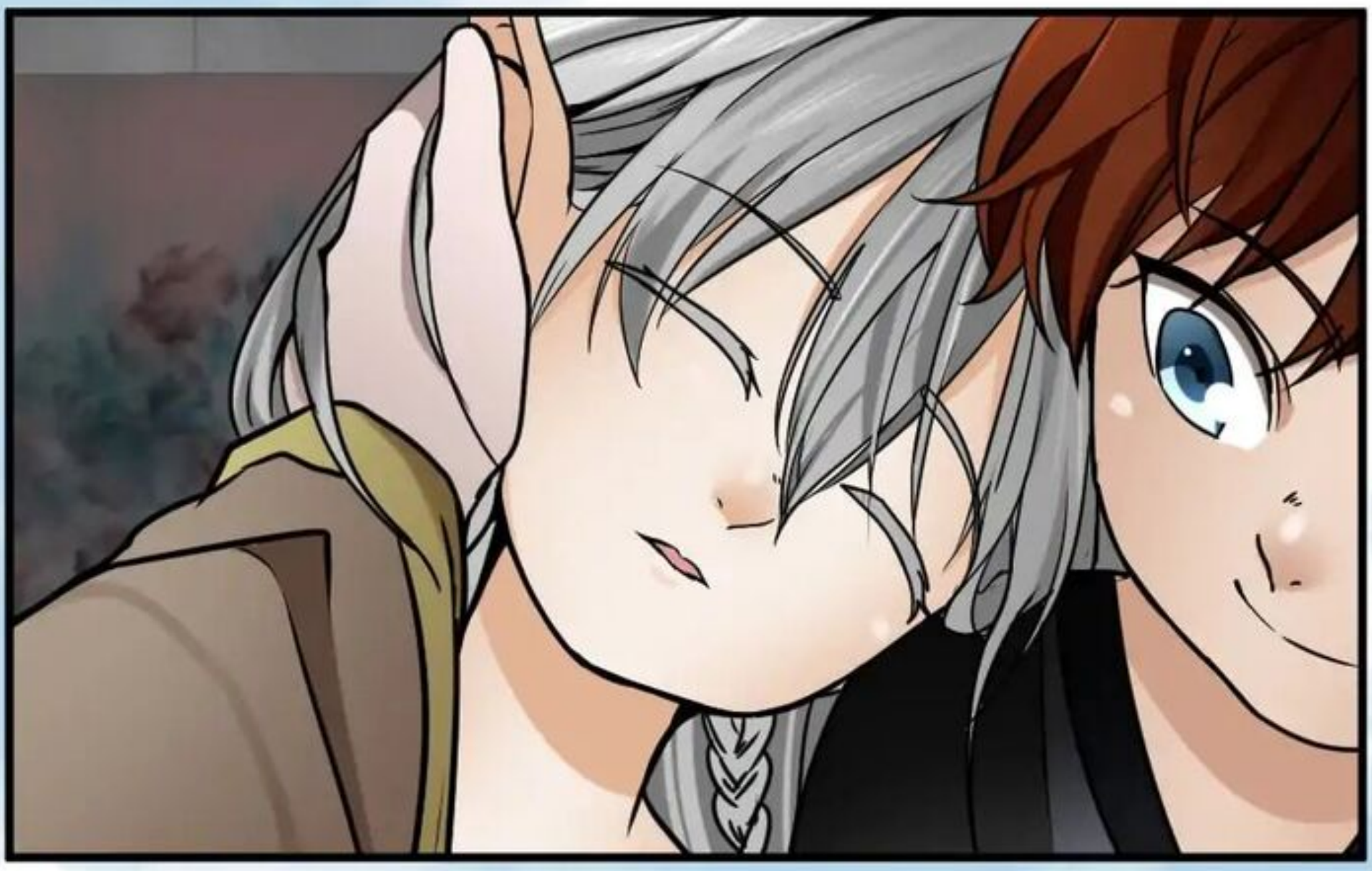
WELL AREN'T YOU AWFULLY COMFORTABLE WITH ME NOW.

WELL...

WE'LL HAVE TO SEE HOW TODAY GOES WITH YOUR MYSTERIOUS FRIEND.

SHE WOKE UP SO EARLY TODAY, BUGGING ME ABOUT YOU.

IS THAT RIGHT?



BEING THE ONLY PRINCESS OF THIS KINGDOM CAUSED HER TO GROW UP IN A LONELY ENVIRONMENT.

SHE'S BEEN HURT TOO MANY TIMES BY BOTH ADULTS AND EVEN CHILDREN PRETENDING TO BE HER FRIEND.

EEHEEHEE

EVENTUALLY,
SHE GREW COLD
AND DISTANT, BUILDING
A WALL CONSTANTLY
AROUND HERSELF.

IN THE SHORT TIME THAT I'VE SEEN HER WITH YOU,

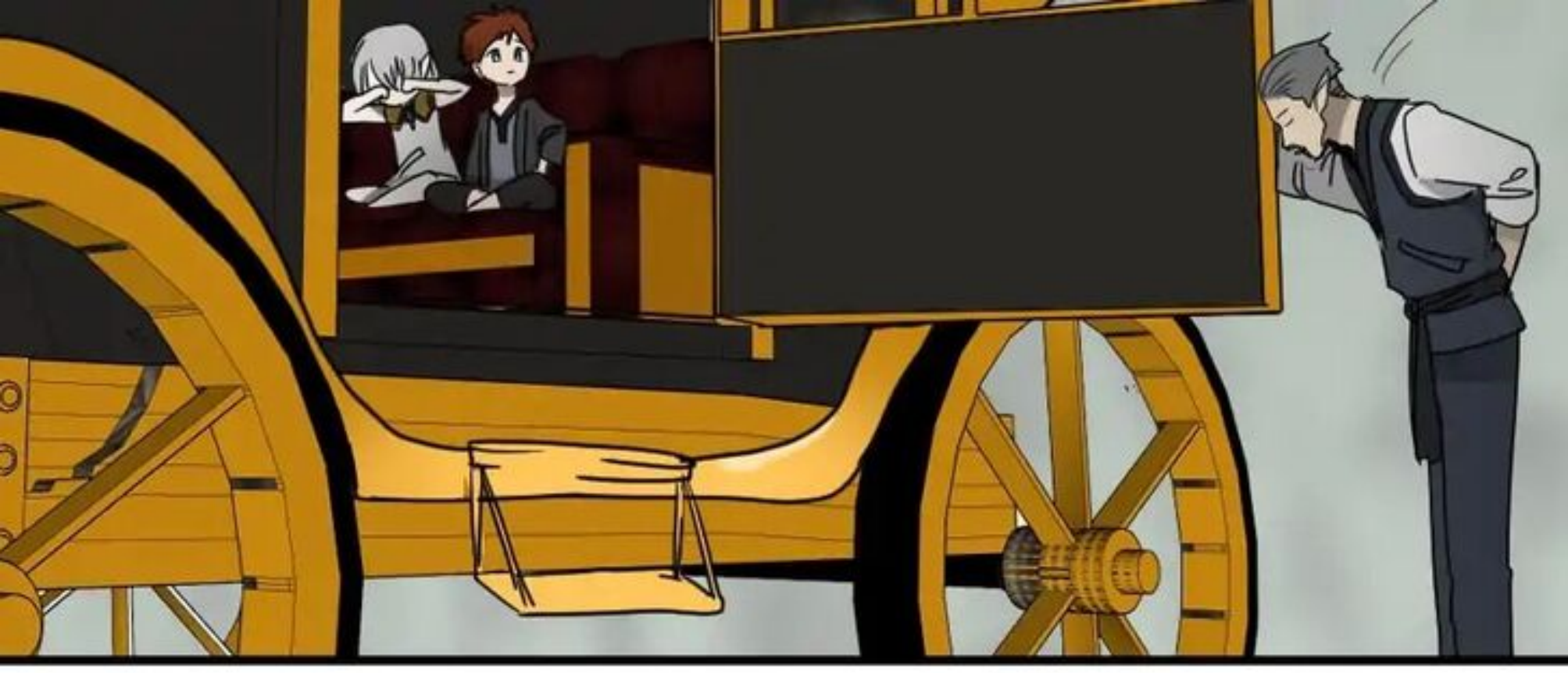
SHE HAS SHOWN ME MORE SMILES AND LAUGHS THAN SHE HAS IN THE LAST FEW YEARS.

FOR THAT,

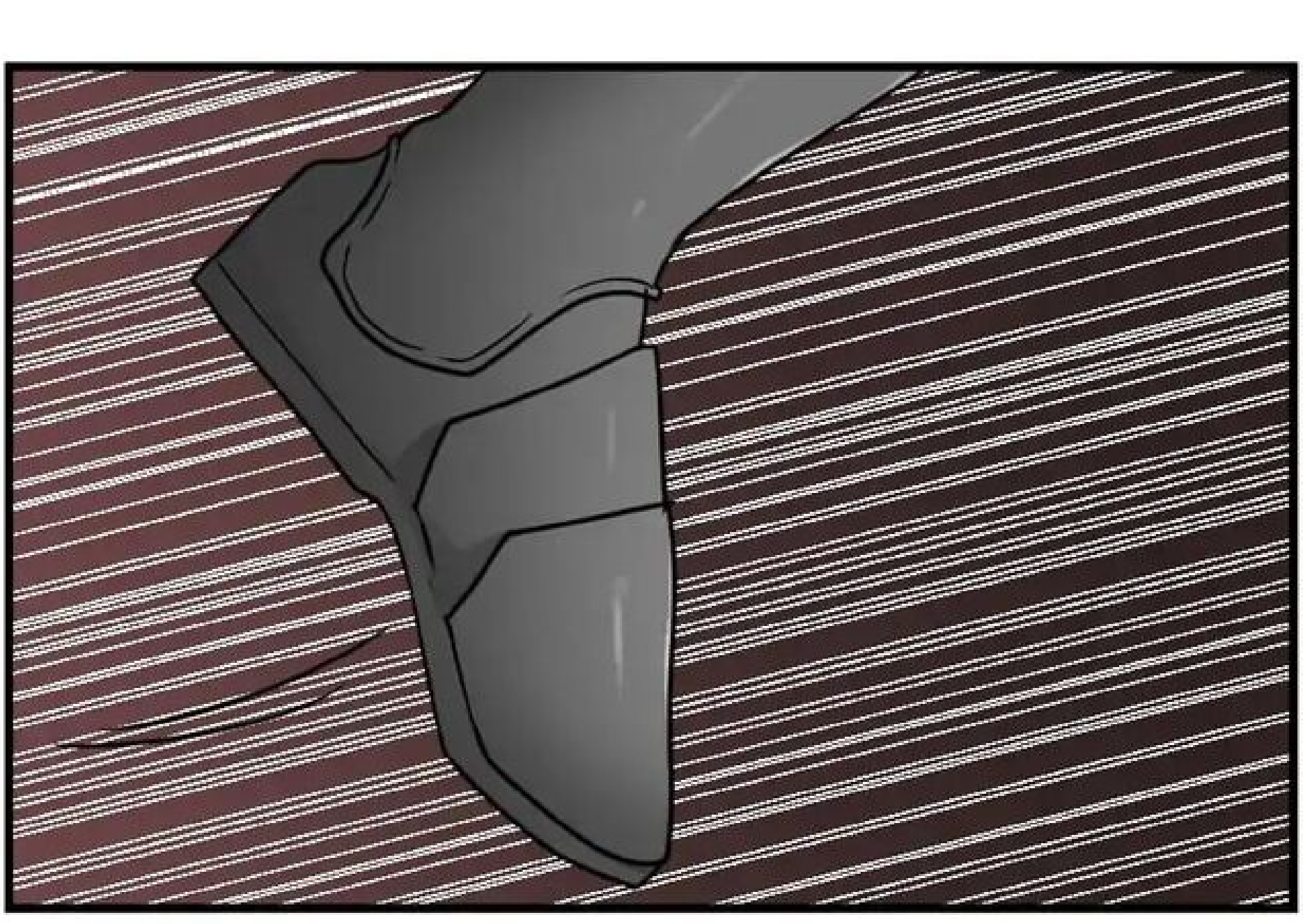
THANK YOU.

CHK!

HUH?
ARE WE
HERE?



I WONDER WHO THIS MYSTERIOUS FRIEND IS TO MAKE THE FORMER KING COME ALL THE WAY TO THIS RURAL AREA.



WE'RE HERE, YOU OLD WITCH!

COME OUT!

HAAA!

BAM!

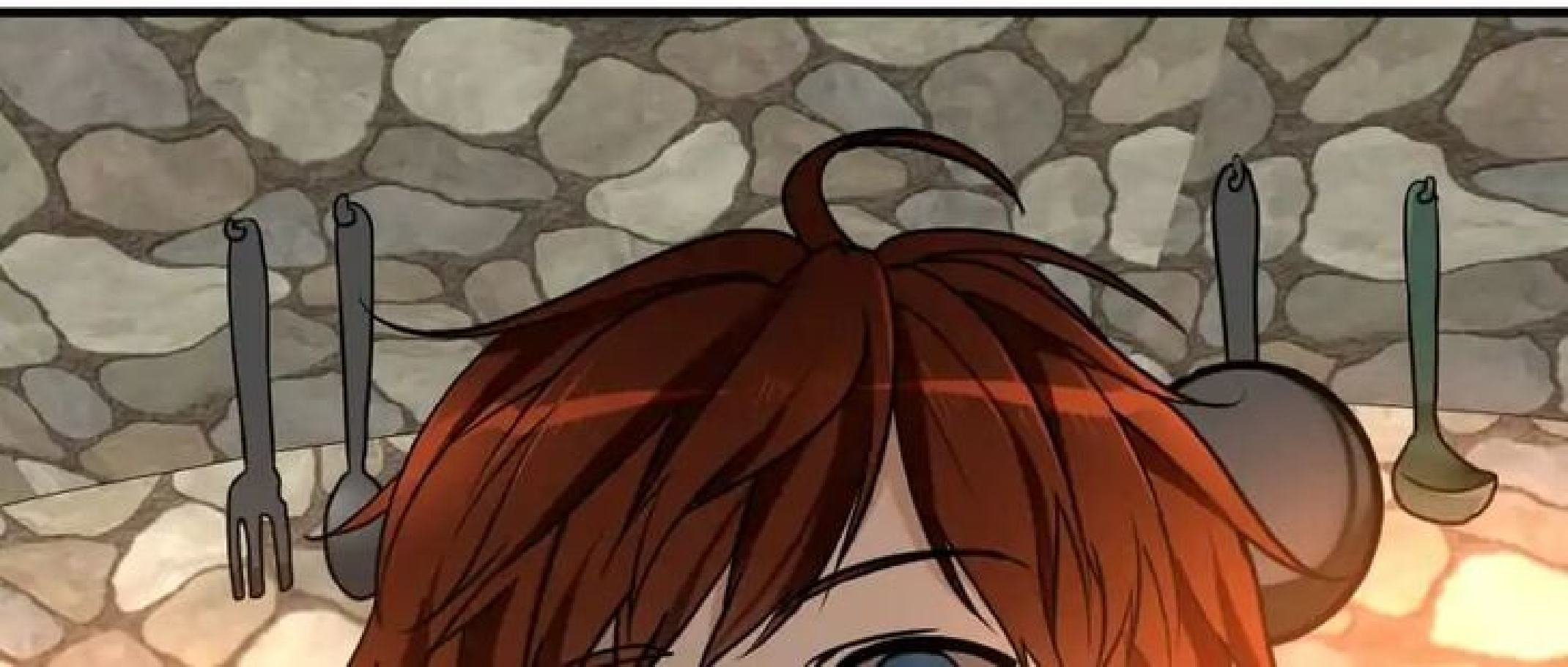
MY EARS STILL WORK PERFECTLY, YOU GROUCH!

ARTHUR!
THIS IS RINIA DARCASSAN, AN OLD FRIEND AND A VERY SPECIAL DEVIANT THAT CAN HELP YOU.

A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, ELDER RINIA.
BOW

WELL, WE HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY NOW.

STOP STANDING OUTSIDE AND COME IN.



BEING A DEVIANT MEANS SHE'S SIMILAR TO MY MOTHER,

WHOSE MAGIC DOESN'T FALL INTO THE CATEGORIES OF THE FOUR BASIC ELEMENTS.

I WONDER
HOW SHE'LL BE
ABLE TO HELP...

MY APOLOGIES FOR SOUNDING IMPATIENT,

BUT GRAMPS SAID YOUR MAGIC CAN HELP ME REACH MY PARENTS?

GRAMPS, HUH?

I SEE YOU HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR THE BOY, VIRION.

BOY.

I AM WHAT IS CALLED A 'DIVINER'

DIVINER?

MAGIC OF THIS NATURE VARIES FROM MAGE TO MAGE BUT I'M QUITE CAPABLE.

THIS MEANS... THAT THERE'S VERY LITTLE SOMEONE CAN HIDE FROM ME IF I SO CHOOSE TO PRY.

FOR EXAMPLE

FOR EXAMPLE,
I KNOW THAT YOU'RE SPECIAL. SO SPECIAL, IN FACT, THAT THERE ARE PARTS OF YOUR LIFE THAT EVEN I CAN'T SEE,

BUT THESE EYES HAVE SEEN PIECES OF BOTH YOUR PAST AND

FUTURE.

SHINE~

BUT YOU'RE NOT HERE FOR MY CLAIRVOYANT ABILITIES. YOU'RE HERE TO SEE YOUR PARENTS AND TO LET THEM KNOW YOU'RE ALIVE, RIGHT?

NOD

RIGHT.

GOOD.

THEN LEAN FORWARD AND KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE BASIN OF WATER.

FOCUS ON THE IMAGE OF YOUR PARENTS,

AS CLEARLY AND DETAILED AS POSSIBLE.

ONCE YOU'RE ABLE TO SEE THEM IN THE WATER, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO THEM.

MOM,

WITH
HER GLOWING
AUBURN HAIR AND
SUN-KISSED COMPLEXION
RADIATING A GENTLE WARMTH.
HER THIN BROWS ALWAYS
KNITTED TOGETHER,
WORRYING ABOUT
ME.

DAD,

WITH HIS
STRONG BLUE GAZE AND
GOOFY SMILE THAT BRIGHTENS
EVEN THE DULLEST OF DAYS. HIS
SILLY QUIPS AND SIMPLE NATURE
AT HOME, SEVERELY AT ODDS
WITH HIS CHARISMA AS A
LEADER AND FIGHTER.

PLEASE...
BE ALIVE.

KEEP UP WITH US CREATORS ON INSTAGRAM!

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